

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 24 OCTOBER 2004

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za, on packet bulletin boards and on echolink from Chris, ZS6FCS.

In the news today

NOMINATIONS FOR SARL COUNCIL MEMBERS

MOTIONS FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

PRESIDENT'S NET AND INTECNET DATES ANNOUNCED.

HAVE WE REACHED SUNSPOT MINIMUM?

IARU FUND GROWING SLOWLY

Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items.

Also, at your convenience, visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office, which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00, at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

News contributors, Sarlnews appreciate your contributions, you are our most important source on activities and development of amateur radio in the RSA. All contributors please note that the only way to ensure that your contribution will not be lost, but reach all four news compilers, is to make use of the facility provided on the SARL web ie. www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp for submission of your contribution. You prepare your item(s) beforehand in text format, check it for gramMitical, spelling and typing errors, copy it, connect with the stated address, provide your name, call sign and email address and paste your message in the space provided, click on 'send' and it is done, easy!

As most items are about events during the immediate past or forthcoming week-end or later, virtually all items can be submitted early in a week and there is rarely a necessity for a late or urgent message. Early submission, and also in Afrikaans as well as English, makes the work for the news compilers easier. Your co-operation will be appreciated.

You are listening to ZS6SRL. The news follows in detail.

NOMINATIONS FOR SARL COUNCIL MEMBERS

The present SARL Council will retire at the next AGM, which will take place on 9 April 2005, and in preparation for the event, nominations for councillors are invited in terms of Rule 16.2 from members of the SARL to fill these vacancies. Should more than 15 nominations be received a ballot will be held.

Each nomination must contain the following:

1. Full names, call-sign and address of nominee;
2. An amateur radio related CV of not more than 200 words;
3. A signed declaration by the nominee that s/he accepts nomination and will serve on the Council of the SARL if elected;
4. Each nomination must be signed by a proposer and seconder;
5. Only fully paid-up members (Rule 16.3) of the SARL may be nominated, propose and second a nomination.

MOTIONS FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Motions for submission and consideration at the Annual General Meeting of the SARL on 9 April 2005 are invited from members.

Each motion must contain the following:

1. A concise description of the motion;
2. A motivation in support of the motion;
3. A proposer and a seconder must sign each motion.

Nominations and motions must reach the Secretary by no later than 30 November 2004. They must be addressed to The Secretary, SARL and mailed to P O Box 1721, Strubensvallei, 1735 or faxed to 011 675 2793.

PRESIDENT'S NET AND INTECNET DATES ANNOUNCED.

Dates for the President's Net and Intecnet for the next few months have been finalised. The dates are as follows:

November 21; December 19; January 23.

The President's net will start at 19:00 CAT followed by Intecnet at 20:00

Clubs wishing to link their repeaters to the network are invited to mail the following details to armi@sarl.org.za : Telephone number to be linked (Cell phones and Prepaid phones cannot be used), frequency of the repeater and area covered as well as details of the operator.

Intecnet on 21 November will feature Echolink with guest speaker Ian Able. Able will be linked into the network via Echolink.

MESSAGE FROM THE VHF BANDPLANNER.

Bandplanning entails much more than the issuing of licenses and callsigns. Its proper function is the planning and logistics to take amateur radio into the future. The proper planning and logistics CANNOT be done without the correct information.

In previous bulletins, mention was made that the SARL has obtained a copy of the amateur database from ICASA. Several mistakes and a lack of information exist. Council thus requests all club chairmen and/or custodians to update their records ASAP, (on or before 31 October 2004) on the application/update form

supplied on the SARL website. This form can be completed in electronic form and emailed, or printed out and mailed to the SARL. All repeaters, digipeaters, Stand-alone links, BBS's, APRS digipeaters and other un-attended stations have to be licensed. The information will then be correlated, so please do fill in the form comprehensively. Your co-operation in this matter is appreciated. The form will also be available on packet. For further information, contact Kobus Conradie, ZR6D, Tel. 082-88-11164, or email, kobus@letsplayradio.co.za.

IARU FUND GROWING SLOWLY

The SA Amateur Radio Development Trust IARU fund is growing slowly but time is running out. The amount to be collected is R12 000. The fund currently stands at just over R4000. You can make your contribution by electronic transfer. The account number is 560 142 722, ABSA Menlyn, branch code 335-645. You may also send a cheque to SA Amateur Radio Development Trust, P O Box 90438, Garsfontein 0042. If transferring electronically please send your name and address details by email to saardt@intekom.co.za or by fax to 012 991 5651. Your support will be much appreciated. Last year the full amount was raised and enabled the SARL to rejoin this important organisation. Time is running out to renew, please contribute now.

HAVE WE REACHED SUNSPOT MINIMUM?

Solar physicist David Hathaway has been checking the sun every day since 1998, and every day for six years there have been sunspots. Sunspots are planet-sized "islands" on the surface of the sun. They are dark, cool, powerfully magnetised, and fleeting; a typical sunspot lasts only a few days or weeks, before it breaks up. As soon as one disappears, however, another emerges to take its place.

Even during the lowest ebb of solar activity, you can usually find one or two spots on the sun. But when Hathaway looked on Jan. 28, 2004, there were none. The sun was utterly blank. It happened again twice last week, on Oct. 11th and 12th. There were no sunspots. "This is a sign," says Hathaway, "that the solar minimum is coming, and it's coming sooner than we expected."

PROPAGATION REPORT

What a week of extremes! Says Kobus, ZS6KOB. On October 11 the sunspot count literally dropped to zero and on 21 October reached 120! This was only for short periods. The sunspot number was 59,2 on Thursday compared to 30,2 last week. The increase in sunspot number has eventually realised - much later than expected. Conditions on the DX-bands were very variable. On Wednesday conditions to Japan were very good. Even the 15 m band was open for short periods on Thursday. On Thursday 23 October a sun-wind with a speed of 449 km/sec occurred as a result of a corona opening towards Earth. Good news is that the corona opening towards Earth can result in good DX-conditions till 25 October. At present there are a number of active areas on the sun. NASA went so far as to announce that the end of cycle 23 can come much earlier than the forecast of 2007.

DIARY OF EVENTS

31 October: Please update your data with the SARL before this date; 18 November: Next RA examination; 21 November: next President's net and Intecnet; 30 November: last day for submission of nominations and motions for 2005 AGM; 9 April 2005: SARL AGM.

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 815, 9 750, and 7 082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban 145,750 MHz in Pretoria and 438,800 in the Sandton area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

Telkom and Sentechn sponsor ARMI.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by Gustav, ZS6BWN, and read byfrom..... as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX